



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Care Finance and Policy
Two Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116*

DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

617-988-3100 • Fax 617-727-7662 • TTY 617-988-3175
www.mass.gov/dhcfp

JUDYANN BIGBY, M.D.
Secretary

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

SARAH ISELIN
Commissioner

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c.118G and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, as amended, a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 10:00 AM at the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, Two Boylston Street, 5th floor, Boston, MA relative to the emergency adoption of amendments to:

114.3 CMR 43.00: HOSPICE SERVICES

The amendments update the rates of payment for the four hospice services (Routine, Continuous, Inpatient Respite, and General Inpatient) pursuant to Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requirements. The amendments adjust national wage and non-wage components of each rate by a county-specific, Massachusetts wage index. Depending on the service, the rates in these county-groupings change within the following ranges: 3.1 to 3.2% for Norfolk, Suffolk, and Plymouth, 4.0 to 4.1% for Middlesex, 3.9 to 4.0% for Essex, 1.0 to 1.5% for Bristol, 1.2 to 1.7% for Berkshire and Pittsfield, 4.3 to 4.5% for Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin, 5.7 to 6.3% for Worcester, 2.7 to 2.9% for Barnstable and 1.9 to 2.2% for Nantucket and Dukes. Overall, the average change in rates is +3.23%.

The Division adopted the amendments as an emergency regulation on December 27, 2008 to maintain access to hospice services and to ensure that the payment rates are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care. It is estimated that aggregate annual MassHealth expenditures will increase by \$180,704 or 3.23%, as a result of these amendments.

Interested parties are encouraged to submit comments on these amendments. All persons desiring to be heard on this matter are hereby notified to appear at the designated time and place. Persons intending to speak will be afforded an early opportunity to testify if the Division receives notice by 5 PM on Monday, January 26, 2009. All others will be heard subsequently. Written comments may be sent to this address. Copies of the regulation are available for inspection and/or purchase at the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, Two Boylston Street, Boston MA 02116 or you can access them free of charge in the Regulations section of the Division's web site located at www.mass.gov/dhcfp.